

GEN. SHIELDS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.—The distinguished soldier was presented to the Legislature of South Carolina on the 16th inst., upon which the Speaker welcomed him to a seat on the floor of the House. The reply of Gen. Shields was short, but exactly to the point.

He arrived in Charleston on Monday last, and was received by the Mayor and City authorities, as the guest of the City. A public dinner and hall have been given in his honor, by the citizens of the "Queen City of the South."

Mr. Thomas Miller, Esq., of Granville, has been appointed President of the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad, in place of Westly Hollister, Esq., resigned.

Mr. C. F. M. Garnett, Esq., who superintended the construction of the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad, has been appointed Engineer of the Columbia & Charlotte Railroad.

Mr. O'Neill is peculiarly applicable to the situation of our own Road. The Wilmington & Manchester Road is in just precisely about the same situation with that of the Greenville Road. We ask the people of Wilmington to read this short article, and possibly it may suggest something in regard to our own Road.

To the Stockholders of the Greenville and Columbia Railroad.—The failure, as I anticipated, to obtain Legislative aid for this great work, makes it necessary to ensure what is to be done. There is but one answer—"Go ahead and do all which can be done." By so doing, public confidence will be secured, and the road ultimately built. My continuance, for a day, as President, depends upon this.

Whenever the work is ordered to stop, I shall cease to be the head of this great enterprise. I have already more to do than I ought to have. Nothing ever induced the acceptance of the Presidency of your Road, without money and without price, but the hope that by so doing, I might contribute something to the good of my country. Nothing induces me to return after the expiration of the road at Newberry, but the fact manifest to my mind, and that of all my friends, that my retirement must greatly retard, and possibly prevent, the building of the Road. Under these circumstances, and after receiving the assurance that the work should go on, I have consented to remain, and on the 16th inst. I returned to the Greenville Road, where I will be put under contract as soon as the survey of location is completed.

The whole line of the Road will be put under contract to be graded as soon as the surveys of location be completed, if the Stockholders will take the contracts. They are entitled by the charter to work out half of their stock on the Road. It is hoped that even small stockholders will arrange themselves into companies so as to take sections, and thus have the benefit intended by the charter. The whole subscription, as it now stands, and available to us, will not exceed six hundred thousand dollars. This is not one third of the enterprise. Still with that sum, if stockholders will take the contracts, we can grade the entire Road, and complete thirty or forty miles.

As I have, we sacrifice previous predictions on the altar of the common good, and then we can build the Road, whether the Legislature will or will not help us. Let us help ourselves. JOHN BELTON O'NEILL, President of the G. & C. R. R. Columbia, Dec. 20, 1847.

A WARNING.—Some days since, Dr. Wainwright, a celebrated Physician of New York, received from a friend in Alabama a number of rare plants, the product of that section of the Union, together with a rattlesnake some six feet long. On the evening of the day on which the Doctor received the packages, he carried the box containing the reptile to the bar-room of the Broadway House, and knocked off the lid, for the purpose of exhibiting the animal to some of his friends. The snake appeared torpid during the time it lay coiled upon the floor, and was teased with a stick for the purpose of making it rattle. Dr. Wainwright was so inconsiderate as to attempt to replace it in the box with his naked hands, when, without almost any premonitory warning, it struck him on the finger. Despite the best medical aid, he died that night in the most extreme agony. What a warning to the inconsiderate.

MEXICAN NEWS.—Since our last paper we have received some intelligence from Mexico, but not of a very important character. Indeed, we do not calculate upon any important movements in that quarter just now. We are looking more anxiously to Washington City for the action of our own Congress upon the Mexican war question, than to Mexico.

We find in the New Orleans papers of a recent date, some late items from the city of Mexico, and also from Queretaro, the present seat of the Mexican government.

The following order will show the reader that Gen. Scott is taking steps to make the Mexican people feel the burdens of the war more sensibly than heretofore:—

GENERAL ORDERS—No. 358. HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, Mexico, 25, 1847. Under instructions from the Government, it is ordered, that this army shall, as soon as practicable, begin to raise within the country it occupies, the means in whole or in great part, of maintaining the expenses of the occupation until the Federal Government of Mexico shall submit terms of peace which the United States may honorably accept, it is ordered, that no uncoined bullion, bars or ingots, either of gold or silver, shall be shipped from any port of Mexico, until the further orders of the Government at home shall be made known on the subject, so as to give time for said Government to fix the rate of export duty on such bullion, and perhaps a small duty on gold and silver coin.

At the beginning of the change of system intimated above, all rents for houses or quarters occupied by officers or troops of the army, in any city or village in Mexico, will cease as soon as contracts may permit, and absolutely, from and after the end of this month, wherever this order shall be received in time, and in future necessary quarters both for officers and troops, will first be demanded, as required, of the civil authorities of the several places occupied by the troops, so as to equalize the inconvenience imposed upon the inhabitants, and diminish the same as much as possible.

The authorities fail to put the troops promptly in possession of such quarters, then the commanding officer, in every such case, following out the same principle of giving the least distress practicable to the unoffending inhabitants, will cause the necessary buildings to be occupied.

Subsistence, forage, and other necessities for the army, will be purchased and paid for

as heretofore; and the injunctions and penalties of the martial law order, dated February 19, 1847, originally published at Tampico, and republished several times since, with additions, will, as from the first, be strictly enforced, as also, in general, all the obligations of good morals and the most exact discipline.

By command of Maj. Gen. Scott: H. L. SCOTT, A. A. G. On the 11th ultimo, Senor Anaya was elected Provisional President of Mexico. This is said to be a good omen for peace, inasmuch as Anaya is said to be a peace man. We have read his inaugural address to the Mexican Congress, but can find nothing in it which would seem to indicate that he is for peace measures.

Some skirmishing had taken place with bands of guerrillas. There was a floating rumor that Gen. Scott had arrested Gens. Pillow and Worth, and Col. Duncan, but we do not give any credence to the report.

STILL LATER. FROM TAMPICO.—By the steamship Ohio we received the following orders of Col. Gates, which will greatly promote our trade with the interior: HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF TAMPICO, November 29, 1847.

Notice is hereby given to the citizens of Tampico and the inhabitants of this department, that orders have been issued to the troops stationed at Altamira, to use their best efforts to protect all traders, whether English, Spanish, French, German or Mexican, in their movements to and from Tampico; that efforts will be ordered to attend any considerable party going out or coming from the interior with property of all kinds. And that similar orders will be given to all officers going on command from this place, to protect and assist the traders going out or coming from other parts of the country.

As the guerrillas or armed enemies are employed by orders to rob all persons who may be engaged in the lawful purpose of trading with the inhabitants of this town, instructions have been given to all officers of the United States army and navy, within this department, to take or kill each and every person of that character found by them so employed against the peace and welfare of the community.

By order of Col. Wm. Gates: F. B. NIMOCKS, A. A. General. THIRTIETH CONGRESS, 1st Session. Wednesday, Dec. 15. SENATE.—The Vice President laid before the Senate the report of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey for the year ending in October, 1847, which was ordered to be printed.

A number of petitions relating to private claims, were presented to the Senate by various members. Mr. Miller asked and obtained leave to bring in a joint resolution, authorizing the erection of a monument to George Washington, on the Public Grounds, in the city of Washington; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. Calhoun submitted the following resolutions on the subject of the Mexican war; which, on his own motion, were ordered to be printed: Resolved, That to conquer Mexico, and to hold it either as a province or to incorporate it in the Union, would be inconsistent with the avowed object for which the war has been prosecuted; a departure from the settled policy of the government; in conflict with its character and genius; and in the end subversive of our free and popular institutions.

Resolved, That no line of policy in the further prosecution of the war should be adopted which may lead to consequences so disastrous to the Union.

The Senate then proceeded to consider the following resolutions, submitted by Mr. Dickinson, of New York: Resolved, That in organizing a Territorial government for any territory belonging to the United States, the principles of self-government upon which our federal system rests will be best promoted, the true spirit and meaning of the constitution be observed, and the confederacy strengthened, by leaving all questions concerning the domestic policy therein to the legislatures chosen by the people thereof.

Resolved, That true policy requires the government of the United States to strengthen its political and commercial relations upon this continent, by the annexation of such contiguous territory as may conduce to that end, and can be justly obtained; and that, neither in such acquisition nor in the territorial organization thereof, can any conditions be provisionally imposed, or institutions be provided for or established, inconsistent with the right of the people thereof to form a free sovereign State, with the powers and privileges of the original members of the confederacy.

Their consideration was postponed for the present, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—In the early part of the session, the House was engaged in discussing Mr. Vinton's resolution about the appointment of a special Committee on commerce among the States. The subject was discussed by Messrs. Vinton, Rhett, C. B. Smith, Root, Bedinger, and others.

A message was received from the President, communicating to that body Mr. Polk's reasons for vetoing the River and Harbor Bill, passed at the last session of Congress; in discussing which, the House was then engaged for some time.

Mr. I. E. Holmes, of South Carolina, introduced a preamble and resolutions on the subject of the Mexican war, the amount of which are, That the U. S. re-cede to the republic of Mexico, all our conquests beyond the Rio Grande, upon condition that Mexico will conclude a treaty of peace with us, establishing trade and commerce upon the same basis between the two republics, that it now stands between the States of this Union.

Objection being made, they were not entertained, and the House adjourned.

Thursday, Dec. 16. SENATE.—The credentials of Mr. Berrien, of Georgia, were presented to the Senate by Mr. Mangum.

A communication was laid before the Senate by the Vice President, upon the subject of the route to California.

Several matters of no general interest were then transacted, when Mr. Foote, of Mississippi, brought to the notice of the Senate, the death of the Hon. Jesse Speight, who died a member of that body.

Mr. Foote's address was touching and eloquent, and at its close, the usual resolutions were adopted, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—After the reading of the Journal, Mr. Botts, of Virginia, asked leave to introduce a joint resolution, authorizing the Postmaster General to renew the engagement with the Washington, Richmond and Petersburg Rail Roads, for the conveyance of the great Northern and Southern Mail.

The Speaker decided that it could not then be considered.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of the President's Message, vetoing the

River and Harbor Bill of the last session, the immediate question pending being on a motion to refer the said message to the Committee on commerce.

Mr. Pettit, of Indiana, then addressed the House at considerable length, in opposition to some of the views contained in the President's veto message. Mr. P. insisted, that although the power to clear out the great navigable waters of the country was not delegated to Congress in express language in the constitution, that still it was impliedly conveyed. He was proceeding to illustrate the subject when a message was received from the Senate, announcing the action of that body upon the death of the Hon. Jesse Speight.

Mr. Jacob Thompson, of Mississippi, rose and paid an eloquent tribute to the memory of Mr. Speight; and when he ceased speaking, the customary resolutions were adopted by the House.

A number of petitions were to-day presented to the House, but none of them relating to matters of general interest.

The House then adjourned.

Friday, Dec. 17. The SENATE did not sit to-day.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Mr. J. R. Ingersoll asked leave to report a Bill from the Committee on the Judiciary, giving to the Supreme Court of the U. S. jurisdiction over cases decided in the Territorial Courts of the new State of Iowa, which, on the suggestion of Mr. McClelland, was postponed 'till to-morrow.

The Bill was read twice and made the order of the day for to-morrow.

Mr. Pettit made a personal explanation with regard to the report of his remarks, published in the "Union," and also with regard to an editorial in the same paper.

Mr. Botts again asked leave and obtained it, to introduce a joint resolution, authorizing the Postmaster General to renew the contract with the Washington, Richmond, and Petersburg Rail Roads, for the transportation of the great Mail; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Routes.

Mr. Mead, of Virginia, brought to the notice of the House, the death of Hon. George C. Dromgoole, of that State, which he did in a most beautiful and touching manner. The usual resolutions were passed, and the House adjourned.

Saturday, Dec. 18. The SENATE did not sit to-day.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The House was engaged during the whole of its session, in the discussion of the special order, the rules for the government of the House, during the present Congress.

The debate turned chiefly upon the "hour" rule, adopted at the 27th Congress. It was urged by some, that the rule, confining members to an hour's speech, should be repealed, inasmuch as it did not facilitate the business of the House; and in the second place, because an hour was frequently too short a period in which to deliver a man's views upon an important question. On the other hand, it was argued that an hour was long enough for any man to speak upon any one subject; that a longer period would only be occupied not in speaking to the question under debate, but in talking for "Buncombe." After a long debate, the House adopted a rule, providing that no member, either in the House or in Committee of the Whole should occupy more than one and one-half hour; but that a member who reported a Bill from a Committee, should have the right of opening and closing the debate—Some other slight amendments were adopted, when the rules of the last Congress (with the amendments adopted this day) were adopted as the rules of the present Congress.

No other business of importance coming up, the House adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEES. The Standing Committees of both Houses of Congress were appointed on the 13th inst. We do not deem it necessary to give them in detail. Below we give the names of the Chairmen of the most important Committees:—

On motion of Mr. Mangum, the Senate proceeded to elect Chairmen of the several Standing Committees—which resulted as follows: Foreign Relations.—Mr. Sevier. Finance.—Mr. Atherton. Commerce.—Mr. Dickinson. Manufactures.—Mr. Dickinson. Agriculture.—Mr. Sturgeon. Military Affairs.—Mr. Cass. Militia.—Mr. Rusk. Naval Affairs.—Mr. Fairfield. Public Lands.—Mr. Breese. Private Land Claims.—Mr. Yulee. Indian Affairs.—Mr. Atchison. Claims.—Mr. Mason. Revolutionary Claims.—Mr. Bright. Judiciary.—Mr. Ashley. The Post Office and P. Roads.—Mr. Niles. Roads and Canals.—Mr. Hannegan. Pensions.—Mr. Johnson, of Ia. District of Columbia.—Mr. Cameron. Patents and the P. Office.—Mr. Westcott. Retrenchment.—Mr. Turner. Territories.—Mr. Douglass. Public Buildings.—Mr. Hunter. Contingent Expenses.—Mr. Felch. Printing.—Mr. Bralbury. Engrossed Bills.—Mr. Downs. Enrolled Bills.—Mr. Rusk. Joint Com. on the Library.—Mr. Pearce. HOUSES OF REPRESENTATIVES.

For the Journal. Mr. FULTON.—There appeared in the Commercial of this morning, a notice of the proceedings of "A Town Meeting" for the purpose of nominating Commissioners for our Town for the ensuing year. The object of this communication is to call the attention of the public to the ticket named by the meeting above alluded to. The present incumbents are again in nomination—the meeting was small and entirely select. We do not particularly object to the ticket on account of the respectability and standing of the gentlemen in this community, but we seriously object and demur at the manner in which the said Commissioners have acted during their administration, for the past year or more—particularly with their conduct during a recent meeting held at the Masonic Hall, relative to the building of the new Market House. It is a fair presumption, that when men are appointed by their fellow-citizens to offices of trust and responsibility, that men of moral worth and weight of character should be selected. The presumption is conclusive; but when we find men so selected, so far forgetful of every generous and liberal feeling that should belong to a gentleman, it is time for plain citizens to look about, and try and find some honest men to govern their town affairs. There are men to be found in Wilmington who are legally qualified, that would have no objection to serving on the Commissioners' Ticket. I will append a list of their names. I wish the public to look into the matter.

December 23, 1847. A CITIZEN. THE PEOPLE'S TICKET. EDWD. B. DUDLEY, JOHN DAWSON, J. G. WRIGHT, B. FLANNER, GEO. W. DAVIS, JOHN A. TAYLOR, JAMES T. MILLER.

Mr. Editor.—Please oblige us by inserting in the Journal, the following ticket for Commissioners of the town of Wilmington.

MANY VOTERS. COL. JOHN McRAE, ISAAC NORTROP, JNO. D. BELLAMY, J. D. GARDNER, GEORGE DAVIS, B. FLANNER, S. P. POLLEY.

MEXICAN CORRESPONDENCE. HEADQUARTERS N. C. REG. VOLUNTEERS. Camp near Buena Vista. November 17, 1847.

Dear Journal: I was sorry to see in some of the newspapers from our State, (which the last mail brought us,) false statements in relation to the unfortunate occurrence which happened to our Regiment on the night of the 15th August last. However, I was not much surprised, as I presume most of the false statements originated from the General Order that was published to our Regiment when those two officers were dishonorably discharged, implicating the Company Officers also, saying that the stigma occasioned by the unfortunate occurrence of the 15th, must rest on the Company Officers; and also insinuating that there was mutiny among the men and officers of our Regiment. Now, it is my determination to give you a full, plain, and unvarnished statement of the circumstances connected with this matter, just as they happened, and then you can judge for yourself if there was any mutiny among the officers and soldiers of our Regiment, and where the stigma of this unfortunate circumstance ought to rest. I do not write this for publication, but for your own use—for I wish you to understand every thing in relation to the matter; however, you may make extracts from it if you choose.

The Commander of our Regiment, from the time he landed in Mexico up to the memorable night of the 15th August, by his rigid course of discipline towards the men, and his equal and tyrannical treatment towards his officers, became unpopular with a majority of the officers—but the men still observed towards the Colonel that respect and subordination which was due him as their Commander. This respect and subordination was impressed upon their minds by the Company Officers, for even when they would be struck with a word, or otherwise treated by the Commander, they frequently happened, the Company Officers would soothe them, by telling them that the Colonel used all alike, both men and officers, and they must try and bear with his treatment as well as they could—that the Colonel would change his course soon, and we would have better times in the Regiment; but unfortunately, the seeming change came too late. There was too much of the old man's head quarters, for that had been frequently said. A dark cloud of melancholy gloom seemed to hover over the minds of our poor heartless and spirit-stricken volunteers. No merry laugh was heard to make the welkin ring, or song to cheer the throbby mind, in our camp, while at Buena Vista. Things went on until the 14th of August. Early in the morning, the Colonel rushed into the Company streets, as was his wont, (for by-the-by the Company Officers had but little more to do with their Companies than you have, for the Colonel monopolized the whole Regiment in attending to the petty duties,) and he came to the rear of the Company tents, and he called, and afterwards sent to their quarters. (Now you must know that the men of Company K had not, at that time, been broken out to the service, for Col. 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